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[REDACTED]

27 April 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
ATTENTION : Chief, A/F  
SUBJECT : Request for Information

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[REDACTED] would be interested in receiving ORR's opinion on the level of production achieved by the Chinese in 1958. Some of the 'leap forward' claims seem so obviously exaggerated -- agricultural production for instance -- that most production figures for 1958 have become somewhat suspect. It is believed here that production figures for coal and steel have been inflated by inclusion of low quality products. It has been difficult to estimate, however, to what degree one should discount the official production statistics to account for this. As a convenient means for answering this query, would it be possible for ORR to forward a draft copy of its annual report on the economy of Communist China?

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*To S/P R And A/F for reply 6 May 59*

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4 MAY 1959